

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 EB-07 OMB-01

OIC-02 H-01 /083 W

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R 251608Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9383

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 214

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE: CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

1. AT NOV 25 CAUCUS OF NATO REPS ON MILITARY SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSSION OF PARAMETERS FOR NOTIFYING MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS, BEGINNING WITH PROBLEM OF THRESHOLD. ALLIES REACHED CONCLUSION THAT IN ORDER TO CLARIFY NATO'S POSITION AND AT SAME TIME PROMOTE PROGRESS IN SOLVING THIS PROBLEM, US SHOULD SIGNAL ALLIANCE'S READINESS TO SET THRESHOLD IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF TROOPS ONLY. WE EXPECT TO TAKE THIS STEP AT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DURING WEEK OF DEC 2.

2. AT THE END OF OCTOBER, WHEN THRESHOLD QUESTION LAST CONSIDERED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE, SEVERAL NATO REPS HAD PUT
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FORWARD INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS OF VARIOUS TYPES WHICH

TENDED TO LEAVE AN UNCLEAR PICTURE OF THE OFFICIAL NATO POSITION. CAUCUS DECIDED THAT THIS SHOULD BE REMEDIED AND THAT ALLIES HAD TO TAKE A COMMON STANCE ON THIS ISSUE WHEN IT COMES UP AGAIN. THERE WAS GENERAL FEELING AT CAUCUS THAT RATHER THAN SIMPLY REITERATE PREVIOUS NATO PROPOSAL (ONE DIVISION OR 12,000 TROOPS OR MORE) WHICH SOVIETS HAVE REJECTED, ALLIES SHOULD NOW INDICATE WILLINGNESS SET THRESHOLD IN TERMS OF ONLY NUMBER OF TROOPS, WITHOUT MENTIONING A UNIT-LEVEL. IT WAS RECALLED THAT BELGIANS HAD INFORMALLY SUGGESTED THIS APPROACH IN OCTOBER AT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AND WHILE SOVIETS WERE GUARDED IN THEIR REACTION, THEY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING IT AND SOVIET CHAIRMAN OF THAT DAY'S MEETING CAREFULLY INCLUDED BELGIAN SUGGESTION IN HIS SUMMING UP.

3. SINCE IDEA OF SETTING THRESHOLD ONLY IN NUMBERS OF TROOPS HAD BEEN PUT FORWARD BY US IN ILLUSTRATIVE DRAFT TEXT WHICH WE CIRCULATED AT NATO FOR SEPT 5 POLADS MEETING, NORWEGIANS SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR US REP TO REDIRECT SUBCOMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO THE BELGIAN IDEA AND SUPPORT IT AS A POSSIBLE BASIS FOR COMPROMISE WITH SOVIETS. ALL OTHER NATO REPS FAVORED THIS IDEA. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT IN REITERATING BELGIAN SUGGESTION, US REP SHOULD ROUTINELY CITE FIGURE OF 12,000 TROOPS, SINCE THIS HAD BEEN USED IN THE LAST PREVIOUS NATO PROPOSAL ON THRESHOLD, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR AGAIN BOTH AT THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND INFORMALLY THAT THIS FIGURE WAS NEGOTIABLE. CAUCUS ALSO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO REFER TO "AT LEAST 12,000 TROOPS" RATHER THAN "12,000 TROOPS OR MORE" BECAUSE SOME REPS SAW POSSIBLE AMBIGUITY IN THE LATTER PHRASE. ACCORDINGLY, TEXT OF FORMULATION WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE TERM MAJOR MEANS MANEUVERS IN WHICH AT LEAST 12,000 TROOPS ARE INVOLVED." WE EXPECT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THIS APPROACH DURING WEEK OF DEC 2 WHEN SUBCOMMITTEE IS MOST LIKELY TO RETURN TO THRESHOLD ISSUE.ABRAMS

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